THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1905.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second

Class Mall Matter. Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid. 2 00 SUNDAY, Per Year ..

Postage to foreign countries added, Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of years. Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Where Did He Get It?

ODELL, after ten years of politics as the only visible means for acquisition, boasts that his private fortune approaches \$3,000,000.

Where did he get it?

Cleanhanded Republicans, straightforward citizens of the State, high and humble, have welcomed as most appropriate a proposed legislative inquiry as to where ODELL got it.

ODELL as Republican State chairman "O. K.d" at Albany favored bills for corporations and "N. G.d" those which did not have the Odell seal of approval. ODELL as Governor did a still larger trade in O. K.s and N. G.s, and later, as Governor and State chairman at one and the same time, he was an ironclad Odell Trust in O. K.s and N. G.s.

Where did he get it?

Get what? The \$3,000,000 fortune which is the envy of the Odell-Newburgh vicinage and the talk of the State. The perversion of ODELL's opportunities both as Governor and State chairman has been a constant source of envy to the Malbys, the Merritts and the Bedells, and has developed in the for comprehensive simulation.

all decent citizens for a legislative investigation of ODELL and his bank accounts.

Where did he get it?

The Lovering Bill and Free Art.

If the sober judgment of a multitude were always sufficient to correct the consequences of caprice there would be little reason for apprehension as to the fortune of the Hon. WILLIAM C. LOVERing's bill to place works of art on the free list. Not only is it obvious now to every common understanding that the pretended protection of native artists was a measure conceived in a stupid want of thinking, but to artists in particular practical experience has made the mischievous effects so apparent that for some time we have been entertained with the singular and paradoxical spectacle of the protected class clamoring for the repeal of the duties and imploring their protectors to let them alone.

Nor have the mere criers for revenue found their account in this pernicious tax. When, several years ago, the protests of artists from all parts of the country had been brought to their notice and the comparative insignificance of the revenue pointed out to them our thought- true. There are now men in Russia. ful legislators, through some mental process never sufficiently explained, detheir predecessors by trebling the duty. Vet the results, even from their point of view, were so far from reassuring that not a few have since realized the truth of an old saying that the mistake of legislators on such occasions is due to an error of computing two and two to make four, whereas in the matter of heavy impositions two and two rarely make more than one.

But, fantastic as this imposition is in every reasonable aspect, it has one notable chance of survival. This is the force of habit, against which no end of excellent reasoning and argument have hitherto been unavailing. The measures proposed by the National Free Art League three years ago were tentative and timid in comparison with those at present under the consideration of the Committee on Ways and Means. They called only for the free admission of works "manufactured or produced more than fifty years before the date of importation," whereas Mr. Lovering's bill covers all works of art, old or new. Nearly twenty years before this an effort had been made to sound the opinion of the protected class. The duties had just been raised from 10 per cent, to 30 per cent,, and a circular letter was sent to artists in all parts of the country inviting them to give their opinion of the increase, with the remarkable result that of 1,435 answers received only seven were in favor the total abolition of all duties on works

of art. few years later a bill was introduced looking to a substantial reform, but without success. The first triumph was in 1889. In that year the will of the artists indorsed by the Ways and Means Com- tion. It runs as follows: "Because homemittee: a bill passed the House with steaders think the good faith of the works of art on the free list, but the Sen- United States is involved in retention and ate, for some reason, refused to ratify it, and in the event a compromise of 15 per | bartered like so many cattle or swine cent. was agreed upon. Ultimately, by the enactment of the Wilson bill, the artists had their way, and the National Free Art League adjourned sine die. Then American Government, threaten discame the deplorable relapse in 1897.

Considering the example of the past, it is difficult to prognosticate the result | words of Mr. McKinley, bound by "ties of current efforts at reform, though there can be no question as to the right course. Here is a tax which no one attempts to defend by plausible argument-insignificant as a means of revenue, perverted as a measure of protection, denounced utterly by the very class it is supposed to stretching of the word be termed false. favor and regarded with a certain shame by every member of the community as | First, that the plenipotentiaries of the something for which no equivalent can | United States and of Cuba "drew up and |

country.

It originated in darkness, and nothing but stunidity can suffer it to continue. Pass the Lovering bill!

The Year of Reform All Around.

The year 1905 has seen a kind of moral housecleaning in the United States in general and in New York city in particular. That, more than the successful DAILY, Per Month......so so intermediation of the United States in the great Eastern war, has made the year a marking place in American his-DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year 8 00 tory. We have stopped, taken stock of DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month 70 politics, finance, even sport, and cleaned out some old dirt which has been offending the nose of the body politic for many

The reelection of District Attorney JEROME, the overthrow of ODELL and the insurance investigation are of the greatest moment to this city. The independent election of JEROME against two sets of Bosses and against a Boss-made ballot was the biggest obvious moral triumph of the year. The stilling of ODELL was less spectacular, but just as important. Both were moral issues. Outside of New York there were the

independent election of Folk in Missouri and the tempered triumph of WEAVER in Philadelphia-moral issues again.

The insurance trouble had begun before the end of 1904, but only one company was involved and it looked then like a little rumpus among the directors. The year 1905 brought a full exposure of real evils not only in that company, but in others-and a state of public opinion which will correct them.

College football, which has been going on year after year on a semi-professional basis, has brought up with an appropriate crash. Here, too, the revulsion is a moral one. The faculties, the public and the newspapers are making less of its roughness than of the recruiting system for players, the "inducements," the importance of gate receipts in an amateur game and the intentional fouling in order to win.

Finally, passing over certain exposures in law as it is practised, let us call attenbreasts of corruptionists, blackmailers | tion to our own profession as it is pracand grafters an intensely eager desire tised in New York. Certain jackals, feeders on dead scandal, who hang on So Amen! say we, to the demand of the fringe of journalism, are in a fair way to be separated not only from the newspaper business, but from their personal liberty.

The graft, the blackmail and half who correspond to "shysters" in law and quacks in medicine have been sheared off with a great suddenness.

And though the aforementioned wild howls have proceeded from crusading The Saginaw Evening News says: Boston and from the untrammelled West. and though forty-seven magazines have ent "exposures," these are only the regular trimmings of a movement for progress. It is a poor drama that doesn't have its comedy relief.

Turgenieff's Prophecy.

From Russia despatches have come saying that men are slain by the thousand; that the disturbance is no longer a matter of spasmodic riots, but of civil war with all its horrors. The revolutionists are shooting only to kill, and instead of spectacularly throwing bombs from windows, they are throwing up breastworks.

One meaning of all this is that the prophecy of Ivan Tuegenieff has come

saw just such a situation as the prescided to make amends for the faults of ent. The very last words of his novel, "On the Eve," which is nothing more or less than a prediction in veiled language of the crisis now at hand, proclaim the advent of Russian manhood. A young and brilliant artist representing the then rising generation asks of an elderly, corpulent Russian, of a type now almost extinct, whether or not there will ever be men in Russia. The elderly one, a masterpiece of Turgenieff's skill. shakes his fat fingers affirmatively and prophesies that the men will arise. Even then the corpulent body of conservative Russia felt a stirring of the new life about to be born. To the younger generation these clairvoyant words of Turgenieff's

were almost like another Annunciation. Now those words have come true. The new race of the prophecy is to-day shedding its blood freely, building breastworks and fighting Czardom. Feeble. indeed, is the fight, but not through the fault of the fighters. They are as yet scarcely more than children. Their birth dates back only to last January, the day of the Petersburg massacre.

If they win, the prophecy and secret hope of TURGENIEFF will be fulfilled.

The Petition of the Pineros.

If the document prepared for submission to the American Administration may be taken as characteristic of the American settlers in the Isle of Pines it would be in order for all good people to conof it, while no less than 1,345 called for gratulate Cuba if she got rid of them by ceding the island to the United States or to any other Power that would take it These and other facts were laid before and the people on it off her hands. The Congress in the form of a petition, and a | intemperate statements and the insulting tone of this communication are extremely offensive.

The "Ninth Reason" given in support of a claim which easily falls under what and of all intelligent people who had any the late Mr. McKinley called "criminal interest in this form of protection was aggression" may be quoted in illustrawill not silently submit to being sold or and being ruled by an inferior people." Thus do "We, the American people of the Isle of Pines," read the riot act to the turbance and grossly insult a people to whom the American people are, in the

> of singular intimacy." These claimants still further prejudice their case by the use, in their petition, of statements which are inaccurate, misleading, and in some instances so inaccurate that they might with no undue For instance, they state, under Reason

wherein the United States proposes to cede the Isle of Pines to the Republic of Cuba." Then follows the statement, printed in italies, that "if the title to the Isle of Pines was not vested in the United States, certainly our country could not cede it to Cuba." Upon this they base an argument that the Constitution does not permit the cession of domain by treaty. This argument they evidently regard as unanswerable. It might be so if it were a true statement.

Article I. of the treaty signed July 2, 1903, sent by the President to the Senate on November 10, 1903, and reported from committee on November 24, reads thus "The United States of America relinquishes in favor of the Republic of Cuba all claim of title to the Island of Pines," &c. Article II. declares that "this relinquishment of claim to title is in consideration of the grants of coaling and naval stations," &c., as provided by the treaty of February, 1903. Nowhere in the Treaty for the Adjustment of Title to the Isle of Pines does there appear the word "cede" or "cession" or any word or phrase that is the equivalent thereof. The United States only "relinquishes all claim of title" to the island.

We are in entire agreement with Secretary Root's opinion that "the treaty merely accords to Cuba what is hers in accordance with international law and justice." For their own good we submit to these claimants that wisdom and a sense of propriety should have suggested to them a closer adherence to facts and a less impudent form of expression in a petition submitted "To his Excellency Honorable THEODORE ROOSEVELT, the Honorable President of the United States; the Honorable United States Senators, and the Honorable Congressmen of the United States."

The Passing of White Pine.

There is some excuse for hesitancy about tariff adjustment in cases where the lowering or the removal of existing rates would result in injury to a domestic industry, but it is difficult to see any reason for hesitation in cases where revision would work injury to none and benefit to many.

The United States once had a white pine industry. This wood has special qualities and particular merits which give it an important value for many purposes. Years ago Maine was our source of supply. When the forests of that blackmail carried on for years by men State were stripped, Michigan and Wisconsin succeeded Maine. They are now so far denuded of their pine that our supply of this particular wood will be practically exhausted within a short time.

"To all intents and purposes there is no white pine over here any more, and manufacturers must won circulation with forty-seven differ- go elsewhere for their supply of raw material to manufacture into dressed products, such as boxes. doors, window frames, mouldings, siding, floor-

In a set of resolutions adopted at the annual meeting of the Saginaw Valley Lumber Dealers' Association it is declared that "the white pine forests of this country are practically annihilated." Within twenty-five years the price of white pine lumber has a litle more than doubled. Manufacturers dependent upon a supply of this wood declare that their enterprises must soon be abandoned unless they can draw their material, free of duty, from the forests of Canada. Whether such extreme statements are or are not fully warranted, there is no doubt that the day of the American white Half a century ago Turgenieff fore- pine is passing, and there is every prob-Canada has a fair supply, which we bar out by a duty.

There is little wisdom in the maintenance of tariff rates which strangle American industries. The standpatters who declare their willingness to lower the hars to materials which do not compete with domestic products appear to have in the matter of white pine an opportunity to show their good faith.

Mr. Hughes's Substitute.

Many of the eminent and important officers of life insurance companies who have sat under the questioning of the Hon. CHARLES E. HUGHES during the last three months must envy the Hon. ANDY HAMILTON the opportune valetudinarianism which has kept him out of the jurisdiction of the State of New York so long. Mr. HAMILTON was wanted to testify before the legislative committee investigating insurance mate ters. He could not attend, and his principal employer volunteered to send an agent to obtain his statement. The results of that agent's persistent activities in Paris were produced before the committee yesterday.

It cannot be said that they compare in interest and public importance with the statements made by gentlemen who appeared in person before the committee and answered the questions propounded by Mr. HUGHES. Mr. HAMILTON'S statement does not contain the clear cut, incisive, specific answers to questions that characterize the testimony taken by the committee. On generalizations and vague allegations of high conduct, pure motives and disinterested zeal for the policyholders it is undeniably long. On facts and figures, direct answers to direct and pertinent questions, it is regrettably short. The witness is present, but Mr. HUGHES is absent.

It is unfortunate for the inquisitive legislators that Mr. HAMILTON'S health would not permit him to cross the Atlantic and appear before them. But what a fortunate thing it is for ANDY HAMILTON!

The rascally partisans who tampered with the mail sent from Frankfort to JOSEPH C. S. BLACKBURN at Washington by admiring constituents down on the farm in the old Kentucky home should be hunted down, if need be to the headwaters of Salt River itself. The postal authorities can have no tolerance of, or weakkneed forbearance for, any ardent Kentucky partisans who in a time of profound peace-a condition not always chronic in the public life of Kentucky-resort to the device of tampering with the letters of the Congressional Hotspur. It is small business for the opponents of Joseph, than whom the Blue Grass region has no more eloquent

JOE BLACKBURN'S term in the Senate ex-

be found in any other highly civilized signed the present Isle of Pines treaty | Congress in one house or the other almost | THE SANTO DOMINGO TROUBLES consecutively since his first election in 1874, and his friends are making a gallant battle for another term for the first citizen of

Versailles. But what can be coming over the frank face of robust politics in Kentucky when the partisans of rival candidates have recourse to the mail bag, the writing desk, the circulating library and the unabridged dictionary to determine questions which are neither ethical, literary nor even constitutional? What have letters to do with a Senatorial battle in the State of barbecues, bonfires, political marching clubs, mountain shooting parties, the Court Square hustings, and the brass band and torchlight parade?

JOE BLACKBURN has never been a favorite with the literary fellers of Kentucky.

The Potsdam Spouter when stripped to the chin is an appalling spectacle.

Bearing in mind the sad fate of the last prominent American who was the victim of a huge popular subscription, the active and alert occupant of the White House will probably pray that all his kith and kin may be spared a similar infliction.

There is a yellow pulpit, too.

THE WEST IN THE EAST.

The Decline of England's Commercial Supremacy and the Awakening of China.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: A corespondent in one of the Far Eastern trade marts who has passed some three years studying conditions in the East has written some of the results of his observations that seem worth placing before the readers of The Sun, especially those interested in Eastern commerce. Being a Britisher, his views have the more value as he frankly recognizes the changes to the disadvantage of Great Britain that are going on. He says: The two main views I have formed are that England is rapidly losing her commercial position in the Far East and that the development of China on Western lines means he end of the supremacy of the West in the East. China will wake up; China is not de-East. China will wake up; China is not de-cadent. It is simply a case of arrested de-velopment. It does not need much imagina-tion to realize what the effect of the wave of Western expansion being rolled back on itself by a wave of greater power will be. The Chinaman is not a man of war. He only wants to do business, and when he once gets started on modern lines and finds what per-sonal advantages he stands to gain there will be no stopping him. Then we shall see things.

The Chinese capitalist has a country under him of immense and untouched wealth, and he has a seething mass of the cheapest labor in the world at his command. And the vitality and energy of the Chinese is alarming, and climate makes no odds to them. want is organizing and directing;

the vitality and energy of the Chinese is alarming, and climate makes no odds to them. All they want is organizing and directing; and that will come.

"As regards the other matter, I am not surprised at the decline of England commercially in face of Germany in the East. All that our young fellows think about when they get out here is to 'snob' it with the best, and their business plays second to sport. Kipling was right about the fiannelled fools. It seems to me that when a young man is too much of an ass and too much of a 'bounder' to be tolerated at home he is sent 'out East,' where he gets worse instead of better. "I am not surprised at the German beating the Britisher. He is always better educated, and therefore generally far more intelligent; he is a good deal more courteous and obliging; he does not sacrifice anything for sport; he is seldom a snob, and never a cad if you meet him with ordinary courtesy. I would rather deal with a reliable German firm than run the risk of being 'snuffed' by the young snobs and bounders one usually finds in a big English house, and who are sent abroad for the good of their families, if not of their country.

"As for the Americans, well. I can always get on with an American, as you know, but I have a good big indictment against both the type of men who have British commercial interests in hand and the British authorities set over them and appointed to the diplomatic work. The boycott was a curious affair and shows the way the wind begins to blow. Another year or two and there will be presented a most interesting study."

The net result of the observations of my correspondent, who proposes remaining some time longer in the Far East and visiting all the principal centres of trade, is that an entirely new condition is before the West since the defeat of Russia by the Japanese, and that it will turn to the disadvantage of the West with increasing intensity as time passes. New York, Dec. 27.

Resolution by a Member of the Republi-

can Club of New York.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: I am a ability that it will soon come to an end. member of the Republican Club of New York. as Odell makes it his headquarters. But it is almost housecleaning time

I am not the only disgusted member.

Trade Conditions in Norway.

attractive proposition in these first days of its new life as an individual kingdom. Its fisheries, agriculture, mining, forests and manufactures are all worthy of study. Consular and Trade Reports reminds us that the Norwegians are honest, thrifty and hard and willing workers. On land and sea it is the same. We know that our Norwegian immigrants—we got 25,064 of them in the fiscal year 1905—make first class American citizens. The chances are we shall not get so many hereafter, now that Norway has a government of her own. If so it will be our

Fishing is perhaps Norway's most important industry. In 1904 she exported 31,000,000 kilograms (the kilogram equals 2.2 pounds) of fresh cod and 17,100,000 kilograms of dried cod, besides 680,000 hectoliters of salted herring and enormous shipments of mackeral. As by-products she bottles oils, and makes arge quantities of fish fertilizers. Her whaling efforts in 1904 resulted in the export of 125,000,000 hectoliters of whale oil, besides all the other products of the whale.

Norway's forests contain innumerable firs. Norway's forests contain innumerable firs, pines, hemlocks, caks and other useful trees, which are cut and the wood exported mainly to England and continental Europe. The forests are scientifically run—the trees being out only when they are best fitted for the purposes for which they were planted. Only expert woodsmen and foresters are in the woods—men trained in good schools similar to those that have made foresty both an art and a science in Germany. What a contrast that is to the reckless waste and prodigality woods—men trained in good schools similar to those that have made foresty both an art and a science in Germany. What a contrast that is to the reckless waste and prodigality seen every day in American forests. The woods of Norway cover fully 20 per cent. of the country. Trees are only planted where the land is unfit for farming. Two million cubic meters of wood are exported each year. Supplementing the forests are the furniture, barrel-stave, match, and pulp factories. In that connection arises the possible opportunity of selling hundreds of saws, woodcutting and wood-working machines, furniture machinery, &c. Norway is only eight to ten days distant from us and all the way by sea, whereon transportation is cheap and easy compared with land transportation.

Farming is popular. The people love their sterile soil. They watch it, work on it, nurse it into fertility, using first seaweed and fish fertilizers. They raise cattle and poultry and produce butter, cheese and condensed milk on artistic and scientific principles. Butter and margarin (labelled as such), are largely exported: about 3,500,000 pounds of the former and 1,600,000 pounds of the latter.

Mining, says the report, is an important feature of Norway's industrial life. Iron, copper, feldspar, grante, &c., abound. In 1904 Norway sent abroad 116,250 tons of iron pyrites and 2,700 tons of copper. Norway's ironis needed all overthe world for the making of certain instruments, implements and tools. The porcelain factories of the world used 21,000 tons of Norwegian feldspar in 1904. Over 190,000 tons of granite and other building stones were taken out in 1904, and much of it exported.

Manufacturing, outside of the extensive wood manufactures already referred to, is making great strides forward. All kinds of

Manufacturing, outside of the extensive wood manufactures already referred to, is making great strides forward. All kinds of plants for making electric appliances are being established. Her shipyards are busy and only wait cheap power to be far more busy. That is where the utilization of Norway's water powers for the generation of electric power will come in. Cotton mills may spring up under cheap power. Nail and horseshoe factories for the same reason and size because of cheap iron and intelligent labor. Calcide carbides manufacturing is growing fast. Vast quantities of raw material are available. About 5,700 tons of carbides were exported in 1904.
Such a country, says the report, so situated, so eager, earnest and energetic, offers a fair field for American enterprise. pires in 1907. He has been a member of

AND THE TREATY.

There Would Have Been No Troubles Had the Treaty Been Ratified.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: What have such incidents as the flight of President Morales from his capital and the threatened recurrence of revolution in Santo Domingo to do with the expediency of ratifying such an arrangement as was embodied in the Dominican treaty, by which the United States agreed to collect and apportion the Deminican customs revenue in the interest of foreign c editors, of Dominican independence and, above all, of the United States, which cannot desire to see Latin-American commonwealths, especially those in or near the Caribbean, controlled, directly or indirectly, by European Powers? It may be as ed, What would be our

situation to-day with reference to Santo Domingo if the Dominican treaty had been ratified by the Senate? I answer that it would be identical with the situation which we occupy with relation to Venezuela or Argentina or any other Latin American country with which we have treaties, but in which the government for the time being is liable at any moment to be upset. A treaty concluded by us with a government which at the time when the compact was signed was recognized by us with the usual diplomatic formalities would be binding on the successor of that government, and any attempt by that successor to repudiate it would constitute a casus belli.

If any other principle were accepted the Latin American republics, in most of which revolution is chronic, would have to be treated as outcasts from the pale of international law. Had the Dominican treaty been ratified there is not an atom of doubt that the successor of Morales would have acknowledged it as binding upon himself. This he must have done under penalty of proclaiming himself an outlaw, to whom no consideration need be shown by any civilized State.

There has been for some time reason to suspect that alleged creditors of Santo Domingo, both American and European. who foresaw that their claims would not bear the investigation to which they certainly would be subjected by the United States in our capacity of receiver, were furnishing money to certain revolutionary leaders for the purpose of fomenting insurrections which, if successful, would overthrow Morales before the treaty now pending in our Senate could be ratified. They were well aware that after the ratification of that treaty the execution of it could not be stopped. For their designs it was indispensable that an anarchical condition should be brought about before our Senate could arrive at a decision regarding the treaty, and for that reason, as we were told at the time on good authority, it had been planned that uprisings should take place in November, before the meeting of the Fifty-ninth Congress.

Those Dominicans who for years have made a trade of revolution are always ready, when supplied with the needed arms and ammunition and with some funds for current expenses, to issue a pronunciamiento, but at this time they had before them an additional incentive. Not only would they be able, if successful, to grab the customs houses, through which channels almost exclusively specie finds its way into circulation in Santo Domingo, but in this instance a particularly tempting lure was offered them in the shape of the deposits, now amounting, it is said, to about a million of dollars, set apart by the American collectors of the Dominican customs revenue for eventual apportionment among the republic's foreign creditors. With such a prize dangled before his eyes a revolutionist would have an exceptionally powerful motive to establish a de facto government which, when recognized by the United States, would be in a position to put forth a claim to the deposits above mentioned, provided, I repeat, the Senate should have omitted to sanction the arrangement made by President Roosevelt with the Morales administration.

Having gained possession of the custom houses and having confiscated the funds intended for foreign creditors, they would obviously have given to Germany, France. Italy and Belgium the very provocation which our State Department has striven to avert. The four Powers named were ready a year ago to apply to Santo Domingo the same coercive process which they found effective in the case of Venezuela, and only Norway is a remarkable country and an by ourselves assuming the function of debt collector did we prevent such a move.

I do not assert that the Dominican treaty was not susceptible of improvement in some details. A good deal might have been said for an amendment providing that the request for our employment of force to maintain order must come not from the Executive but from the Domini an Congress. It might have been also a judicious stipulation that our use of force should be limited strictly to the protection of American collectors of customs in the exercise of their official function. Thus modified. however, the treaty would have been unobjectionable, and had it been ratified by our Senate during its last session would, in all likelihood, have put an end to internal troubles in Santo Domingo. For it would have been thoroughly realized by the Dominicans that there was nothing to gain from revolution, inasmuch as the treaty concluded with Morales would have been binding on all his successors until formally denounced.

A TWENTIETH CENTURY AMERICAN. NEW YORK, Dec. 27.

The Fighting and Mortality in Moscow TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I would like to call attention to one very important feature of the struggle now going on in Moscow which seems to have been overlooked in the appalling list of dead and wounded given us by your correspondent

to-day. In military terminology so I have read, to speak of the annihilation of a regiment means that 10 per cent of its members have been killed or wounded.

Taking this as a basis—surely high enough—it means that 180,000 people were fighting the Czar's troops in the ancient capital of Russia during the last two or three days.

As the population of Moscow is about 200,000

things stand out pretty clear amidst the conflicting testimony: One, that the population almost to a man and woman has been fighting the troops second, the figures, 5,000 dead and 14,000 wounded. are very much overdrawn.

The Cossacks may have been loyal to their imperial master but, as Burke said: "You cannot indict a nation"; and when Moscow, the most Russian of all cities and the one with the most con-

all told it will be seen how impossible this is. Two

servative traditions, sheds the blood of her children so freely the days of the Romanoffs are num The path of liberty was ever thorny and watered with human blood; the price is heavy, but the friends of Russian freedom should rejoice, for

But the population of Moscow is more than about 200,000." By the census of 1897 it was 988,614. The population of the province, or Government of Moscow, of which the city is the centre, is about two millions and a quarter.

A Topic of the Town.

outlook is glorious.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Perhaps it was a fad, perhaps it was a fancy, that led me the other evening to take down my volume of Pope, wherein the following passage from epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot" caught my eye;

This prints my letters, that expects a bribe, And others roar aloud, 'Subscribe, subscribe!' It seemed to suggest one of the current town E. E. TREPOLPEN, NEW YORK, Dec. 27.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY'S FUTURE And the Personality of the Crown Prince Francis Ferdinand

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! It is a general opinion that the present structure of the Hapsburg dominion cannot be maintained by the successor of Francis Joseph I. The personality of the present ruler is the sole coherent force of the two States united the Hapsburg dynasty. But what may happen when Francis Joseph retires to his ancestors and the Hapsburg double crown

The future of the kingdom depends in a great measure upon the personality of the Frown Prince, Francis Ferdinand.

changes its wearer?

The Prince of Este, Francis Ferdinand, was not educated from birth to be a ruler. He is a nephew of Francis Joseph, and be came hereditary Crown Prince in 1800, after the sudden death of Rudolph, son of Francis Joseph. After having been designafed as Crown Prince he made a trip around the world, and according to the family custom of the Hapsburgs he served in all higher ranks of the army, living in different parts of the Hapsburg dominion.

He generally passed the hunting season in Hungary. In the court of Archduke Frederik, who lives in the Hungarian city of Pozsony, as army corps commander, he made the acquaintance of the Countess Sophia Chotek, a court lady of the Archduchess Isabell, and married her. He showed a very strong will and manly character in overcoming the obstacles to his marriage. He had to renounce for his heirs any right to the throne; his marriage having been, according to the family rules of the Hapsburgs, a mesalliance, and his wife being unable to wear the dignity of the Austrian Empress. This disqualification, however, was protested on the basis that the Hungarian laws do not recognize the Austrian court rules, and the Austrian court rules, and the Hungarian kingdom. The legal wife of the Hungarian kingdom. The legal wife of the Hungarian king is the Queen of Hungary. The question is not yet settled, and it depends upon the Hungarian Legislature whether Princess Sophia and her children become legal members of the ruling dynasty or not.

Concerning this question, the leading Hungarian paper, Budapesti Hirlap (Budapest News), published the following:

"The members of the Hapsburg dynasty are divided into two parties since the marriage of Francis Ferdinand. The two parties have a deep aversion toward each other.

"The head of one party is the favorite daughter of the ruler, Mary Valery, with her aunt, Mary Caroline, as chief of the headquarters. This party announced the war to Countess Chotek, and has threatened her that, in case of her marriage to Francis Ferdinand, not only would she never be the Empress of Austria and Queen of Hungary, but that even her husband would not ascend the throne. They have exerted the strongest pressure to make him resign the throne, and tried to gain the influence of the highest for their aims. These are, that Francis Ferdinand should resign in favor of his younger brother Otto, and he in turn in favor of his young son. who lives in the Hungarian city of Pozsony, as army corps commander, he made the ac-

brother Otto, and he in turn in favor of his

"Francis Ferdinand knows of these plots, and he has also his staff of friends, but more and he has also his staff of friends, but more in a waiting position than in an active one. He knows exactly what is going on against him, what means his parents are using against him and his family, and therefore he keeps away from it all. He goes nowhere, lives always in his family circle and only leaves this circle at the command of his ruler. When he found out how the intriguants used his hunting trips in Hungary as a weapon against him, he put a stop to his trips, and from that time he has avoided Hungarian society.

from that time he has avoided Hungarian society.

"It was said that Francis Ferdinand went not only for hunting in Hungary, but more to gain the influence of the Hungarian Magnats, so as to have his wife crowned. According to the views of the intriguants, the Hungarians are ready to change the resignation bill, and consequently Countess Chotek will become the crowned Queen of Hungary. The Hapsburg Princesses will not bear such a humiliation, that a simple Countess should become higher in rank than they. And therefore the strong intrigue against Francis Ferdinand and the Hungarians."

As to Francis Ferdinand, it is positive that owing to his strong character all these plots will be overthrown. He is believed to be a Federalist, that is, he refrains from the Metternich ideals of governing. And if under him, according to his federalisito views, the Hapsburg dominion becomes reconstructed, it will be between the devices and the second of the se

burg dominion becomes reconstructed, it will be better for the dynasty and people. The map of Europe will remain unchanged:

NEW YORK, Dec. 24. JOSEPH NEMETH.

STATEN ISLAND.

A Comprehensive Plan for the Improvement of Its Water Front.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Municipal ction alone can do away with the nuisances that afflict the water front of Staten Island, and it alone an rejuvenate the Island along modern lines, thus assisting nature in laying out this frontage as the site for magnificent homes.

The city should condemn the frontage on both gen Point ferry, then bridge from the water line back to and on a level with Richmond Terrace, making of the whole front a grand plaza or parkway.

This would in no way interfere with the operations of the railroad or uses of the water front. It should be remembered that the height of Richmond Terpart of the distance make it impossible to construct a roadway from the water without destroying the Terrace and extending the grade to the top of Grimes Hill on a rise of about forty degrees, and over this it would be all that a horse could do to

haul his own weight.

The cost of this would be much less than that of the Brooklyn Bridge; besides, it would prove to be such an attraction that the whole frontage would pe rebuilt with palatial residences, making Staten Island one of the show places of the city, thus adding revenue to the municipal ferry. Furthermore, it uld not be long before the Central Railroad of New Jersey would be surveying down through the middle of the Island for a branch over a bridge at Bergen Point,

ties, for both the North and South shore divisions of the Ranid Transit could be hitched on and land pas sengers in New York to any part of the island in from fifteen to twenty minutes.

In presenting this plan for improvement it is only fair to call attention to the fact that Brooklyn and The Bronx have had something like \$75,000,000 expended on their improvements, and when those under way and now contemplated are finished this

Staten Island, with an area equal to that of Manhattan and The Bronx, determined to assert her importance according to size and without regard to population, succeeded in electing the Hon. George B. McClellan Mayor of Greater New York, over a population of 4.500,000. This phenomenal victory of healthy manhood incident to the clear, bracing and super-oxygenic conditions of the air for which the island is so renowned. The idea suggested is that this is the kind of stock that the Mayor and Tammany would do well to cultivate, and the way to do it is by carrying out the improvements herein suggested and a few more to be named hereafter. NEW YORK, Dec. 26. C. C. HICKOK.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: We uns living in Brooklyn are glad and thankful for the mercles of the year just ending-thankful that olitical affairs are no worse than they are, conidering the maladministration of affairs under the Odells Murphys, Dadys, Sharkeys and their kindred souls, who "ran things" for glory of themselves and their pocketbooks and

May the New Year bring us relief from all these and similar afflictions: BROOKLYN, Dec. 27. M. O. MOSKOVITCH.

From the Rattroad Gazette,

bank accounts.

Swiss life insurance company has agreed to insure members of a railroad men's temperance society for 4 per cent, less than the premiums charged to non-members; and a Swiss accident insurance company which for some time has made a rebate of 10 per cent, to total abstainers is so well satisfied with the result that it will make the rebate

It Is Christmas Week Yet. emember, we grow younger as the years begin to

frost us On our tops (of course provided they can find the f we only keep our hearts young in the world where

For love rolls back the years and makes us glad

that we were tossed!

The only true philosophy consisteth of the attitude Of facing fortune with a smile e'en though you Like the woman in the garret who still had cause for gratitude

were opposite! Tis ill to gain through others' pain and spend the

om of love is fairer than the skull of hate beneath: Oh, listen! Through your laughter, I can hear the

Hurrahi And let us thankful be for oppositious tooth!

THE OVERTHROW OF ODELL. Report From the United Republicans of

the Southern Tier. From the Corning Journal It is not politic for any official of a political party to assume that he has a better right to express himself on questions of part; management than have the men to whose initiative or by whose sufferance he owes his position. The rule of "give and take"

applies to party management from A to Z. In all the years of its eventful history the demand from within the Republican party in this State for strong and positive leadershi was never more urgent than at the present time. That the local men of the party from end to end of the State are alive to the dangers of the hour there is abundant evidence. The note of warning has been sounded clear and strong by keen eyed men of unquestioned judgment who have by faithful service earned the confidence of the Republican masses. For several years there has been an evident

drift toward that monarchical type of party control aptly termed "boss rule. of orders going up from the voters through their local party representatives to the men constituting the State committee, the order of procedure has been reversed the mandates of a "boss" have come down to the local leader and the voters. When revolt threatened the party lash has been applied as ruthlessly as the Russian knout.

It is well that the trusted watchmen of the Republican party, from a thousand watch towers, have sounded notes of alarm. The response has been instantaneous. Republicans all over the State-those who are Republicans from principle-have taken new courage. The old time flash of patriotic zeal illumines eyes that had grown dim with distrust. Murmurs of discontent that boded ill for the party's future have given way to exclamations of exultant rejoicing.

The courageous act of Governor Higgins in naming Assemblyman James W. worth, Jr., as an acceptable candidate for Speaker of the Assembly, and one who if elected to the position would represent the will of the people as expressed in his own election to the Gubernatorial chair, has made possible a concentration of effort for the redemption of the party and the State from even a semblance of "bossism

Those who rebel against popular government in party affairs, as voiced by men of prominence in the Republican party who are next to the voters, will but emphasize their own shortcomings. A storm that had been gathering for several years has at last broken It may drench and make uncomfortable those who refuse to accept the shelter of the old party fold: but it is a storm that is needed to save the crops!

Inconsiderate remarks, frantic appeals and hysterical gyrations on the part of those who feel the reins of usurped power slipping through their hands should not be taken seriously. Ex-Governor Odell and his associates have had their day. If they will not be obedient even as they have been obeyed, no act of theirs can deter the men who have undertaken the work of restoring Republican prestige by first reestablishing Republican methods. Governor Higgins has voiced the popular

desire. By virtue of the office he holds and because of the circumstances that compelled his nomination and election he is the man of the hour. No question can be raised as to his ability, his honesty, his steadfastness of purpose. Governor Higgins has done many things to strengthen the vote of confidence that placed him in the Gubernatorial chair, but nothing that will so redound to his credit as the cutting of the Gordian knot that bound his party to an odious system of oppression. The Republican voters throughout the southern tier are solidly in line for popular rule in the management of the party.

BALTIMORE.

Its Population, Its Habits and the Reasons for Its Characteristics. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: "M.'s"

remarks concerning Baltimore in THE SUN of December 24 were truthful as far as they went. "M." should have remained longer in the village and learned the following facts: The population of Baltimore is about 600,000, but an analysis of these figures shows that the place is in reality but a small town. From the 600,000 inhabitants must be deducted -approximately -100,000 negroes. From the 500,000 left we must subtract 100,000 Poles,

Bohemians, Russian Jews, Lithuanians and Politicians. With the exception of the latter parasitic race, these peoples are segregated in sections of the town where they work in sweat shops and clothing factories. These foreigners have nothing in common interest with the town or its citizens. Few

can never become amalgamated with the Americans here, for the Marylander does not leave his ancestral home to associate or mingle outsiders. These foreigners are widely separated from the citizens as the These conditions leave us about 400,000

Now take 200,000 of these who were people. born and environed-and this means much in Baltimore-all their narrow lives within the limits of the borough, and we have a town of 200,000 fairly active citizens. The 200,000 born Baltimoreans we have to eliminate because they are a drag on the progress of the town. This is a class whose knowledge of other cities is that of a country lad. They represent a species of ruminants to be nowhere else found in the United States. Like the ground rent system, they have estopped Baltimore's progress.

where else found in the United States. Like the ground rent system, they have estopped Baltimore's progress.

The little knowledge of the outside world these 200,000 untravelled voters possess is scarcely believable. These mentally quiescent people don't understand why Baltimore needs a sewerage system: why cobble stone pavements are not the best in the world and why money should be spent to keep the flithy alleys clean. All modern improvements are incomprehensible to these segregated villagers. News clipped from the New York morning papers is fresh news when it reaches them the next morning in their papers.

It is the paltry 200,000 left out of the 600,000 citizens who have been fighting this ignorance and apathy.

An instance in verification of what I have said is seen in the ignorance or vegetative condition shown when Johns Hopkins University needed money to tide over a financial crisis. Johns Hopkins has done more to bring Baltimore before the world than anything in all this town's three hundred and more years of existence. It has been the means of bringing here thousands of the best brains in this country and Europe for study and investigation, yet in its great need the majority of the people ignored or else ridiculed its appeal. The few noble exceptions were individuals apart.

Such is the state of apathy and ignorance in this burg of accumulated villages.

To sum up my opinion after having been here for three long, hard years: The town of Baltimore is so slow that before resurrection day comes Gabriel will have to give it thirty days notice. In Baltimore, Vocatur hoc privilegium.

Baltimore, Dec. 26.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 26.

From the Radway Age.
M. Georges Irade, writing in the French journal Les Sports, claims that after a long and conscie tious search he has run to earth the slowest ordi-nary passenger train in the world. This record holder is chronicled on page 773 of the Guide Chaix and performs in Spain, a country in which twelve miles an hour is by no meens an uncommon rate of speed on the railway between Soto de Rey and Clano Santa Ana. This line is 13% miles long it has one station en route, viz.. Sama, which is miles from Soto de Rey and 1% m Ciano Santa Ana. Leaving the last named place at 6:25 A. M. the train reaches Sama at 6:55 age Soto de Rey at 8:20. Thus the average rate of speed of the train is under seven miles an i while from Ciano Santa Ana to Sama the speed is only 3% miles an hour.

The Dream of a Universal Language. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The time has come for a universal language. The world no world language. A universal congress called for the purpose of adopting a univ language-say Latin or Greek, or some not much used by the leading nations, so

national jealousies would not arise over the ac-And thanked the Lord she had two teeth and they tion of a universal or world language. It would be a great promoter of peace on earia. NEW YORK, Dec. 27.

Spectacles Two Hundred Years Old.

From the Newberry Observer. Mrs. E. P. Chalmers of Helena has a pair acles that are more than 200 years old, in frame and wooden case. They were brought Ireland many years ago by the ancestors of the